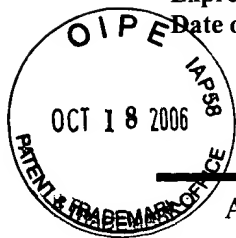


Express Mail Label No.: EV886686608US
Date of Deposit: October 18, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 27353-501 UTIL



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| APPLICANTS : | Blackburn, <i>et al.</i> | CONFIRMATION NUMBER : | 4288 |
| SERIAL NUMBER : | 09/967,321 | EXAMINER : | Lam, Ann Y. |
| FILING DATE : | October 1, 2001 | ART UNIT : | 1641 |
| FOR : | Methods | | |

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
Expedited Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

In response to the final Office Action mailed on April 18, 2006 in the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. A petition for a three month extension of time (up to and including October 18, 2006) and the necessary fee for a small entity are enclosed. If any additional fees are required or if any funds are due, the USPTO is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account Number: **50-0311**, Customer Number: **35437**, Reference Number: **27353-501 UTIL**.

A Notice of Appeal under 37 C.F.R. §1.191 accompanies this Response.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.